

**CONFIDENTIAL**~~SECRET~~

DOC	04	REV	DATE	28 MAY 1980	BY	018373
ORIG COMP	40	RPI	56	TYPE	02	
ORIG CLASS	5	PAGES	35	REV CLASS	C	
JUST	22	NEXT REV	22	AUTH:	HR 70-2	

25 January 1954

**MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution**

**SUBJECT : Request for Customer Comments Concerning Proposed Leaflet Rocket (TSS Project No. MD-91)**

1. Technical Services Staff would appreciate having the benefits of its customers' thinking on the subject of Leaflet Rockets.

2. Perhaps we should first explain our purpose in circularizing you from time to time with these requests for customer comments. It's simply this: To provide you with technical devices which meet your needs at the lowest possible cost. As many of you know, much of our work is of the tailor-made variety. Customer A wants a device that will do such-and-such; Customer B asks for an item of slightly different capabilities; then C comes in with another idea, and the end result is three separate devices . . . all made to order and costly. If we had known of B and C at the time we started working for A, chances are we would have been able to develop one item satisfactory to all three at considerable savings to each customer. While TSS bears the development costs, once the item becomes operational, its procurement is charged against the operation. Thus it's both your money and ours we are trying to save. Now, back to Leaflet Rockets . . .

3. Our Mechanical Division has been following the Army's progress in distributing leaflets by rockets. To date the military have succeeded in converting their 115 mm. T-210 High Explosive Rocket to carrying propaganda leaflets. The missile weighs about 36 lbs., measures 4.5 inches in diameter by 3 feet in length. This projectile is fired from an expendable launching tube, follows a mortar-like trajectory, with ranges from a minimum of about 500 yards to a maximum of approximately 2100 yards. If you were to ask your procurement people to obtain this item for one of your operations, it would cost you about \$90 per rocket.

4. TSS has shown this Army rocket to various operating elements within the Agency and for the most part their reaction is critical of the item, and for these reasons:

It showers heavy metal parts on the ground below after ejecting the leaflets . . . some of our observers experienced in mass communications rightfully felt that hitting your audience on the head with metal parts is perhaps not the best way to prepare them to read and believe a propaganda message.

The projectile lacks sterility. It smacks of U.S. Government in appearance and design.

**CONFIDENTIAL**~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

5. Feeling the Army rocket is unsuited to his needs, one of our customers has placed with TSS a requirement for leaflet rocket with a maximum range of 2000 yards and similar in appearance and principle to the Fourth-of-July type skyrocket. The missile would be made mostly of cardboard and would just about destroy itself after ejecting the leaflets. There will be no metal parts to fall on people in the dispersal area and the construction and procurement will be sterile.

6. TSS has a contractor cleared and ready to undertake the development of this item. However, before crystallizing the specifications, we would like to have the comments of other customers who might be potential users of such a device. Here, in short, is what we would like to know:

- a. How active an interest do the addressees of this memorandum have in this problem - do you anticipate a requirement for such a device in the foreseeable future?
- b. What would be the realistic range you would require of such a rocket? This question of range needed to do the job is important because it effects the cost of the item. For example: We feel it would be fairly simple to construct a rocket that could carry an 11-ounce payload 500 yards dispersing the leaflets at 100 feet above the ground for about \$10 (in reasonable volume) but when you get into the longer ranges the tolerances become more exacting and the costs increase substantially.
- c. What's a desirable payload for such a rocket - how many leaflets should it carry? . . . . and what size?
- d. What should the device weigh and how big should it be? Should it break down into two or three parts? Is there a carrying or concealment problem involved?
- e. What do you feel would be the expense limit for an item of this nature to make it financially feasible for the use you have in mind?
- f. Any other suggestions you would care to offer based upon your operational experience in this field.

7. Should any of your people wish to discuss the matter with our development staff, the project engineer is  Room 2418, Quarters Eye,

50X1  
50X1

8. We recognize that a number of the addressees will have no interest in the item while others may have future requirements for, or operational experience with devices of this nature which will be extremely helpful to TSS. If you are in either of the latter categories, we would appreciate having your comments on or before 20 February 1954.

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

**Page Denied**